

**Health Equity Task Force established by Chapter 93 of the Acts of 2020
Meeting Minutes for Monday, August 24, 2020, 10:30AM - noon.**

Attendees:

Senator Julian Cyr
Dr. Frank Robinson
Michael Curry
Dr. Milagros Abreu
Dr. Cassandra Pierre
Hirak Shah
Jeffrey Sanchez
Dr. Kiame Mahaniah
Dr. Assaad Sayah
Beverly Stables
Representative Donald H. Wong
Maia Raynor (for Senator Sonia Chang-Diaz)

Members Not in Attendance

Representative Chynah Tyler
Representative José F. Tosado
Dr. Myechia Minter-Jordan
Representative Carlos González

Introductions of task force members

Senator Cyr called the meeting to order and facilitated introductions of those task force members present. Senator Cyr explained that he helped to convene and lead the first meeting so that Co-Chairs could be elected in accordance with the enabling Act.

Review of Open Meeting Law and Task Force requirements

Senator Cyr reminded members that the task force is subject to the open meeting law and that links to the Attorney General's Open Meeting Law Guide and Educational Materials, as well as updated guidance related to COVID-19 had been sent to members by email. Senator Cyr stated that each Task Force member must complete a Certificate of Receipt of Open Meeting Law Materials and return it to the Co-Chair who will be keeping records.

Senator Cyr referenced the Task Force's enabling language and specific charge as found in Section 2 of the Chapter 93 of the Acts of 2020. Senator Cyr reviewed that the Task Force is directed to hold at least one public hearing and accept public comment prior to releasing an interim report and to hold at least two additional public hearings and accept public comment in advance of issuing a final report. It was acknowledged that the reporting deadlines will need to be extended.

Election of co-chairs

Senator Cyr explained that according to the enabling language, members of the General Court cannot serve as Co-Chairs. Senator Cyr suggested an approach of having one Co-Chair be chosen from the list of Senate appointees and having one Co-Chair be chosen from the

list of House appointees. Task Force members accepted this suggestion and those interested in serving submitted their names for consideration.

Michael Curry and Dr. Assaad Sayah were elected to be co-chairs by a vote of the members present.

Coordination with the Office of Health Equity

Dr. Sabrina Selk, Director of the Office of Health Equity presented a Department of Public Health COVID-19 Health Equity Update. The slide deck from her presentation is attached.

Task Force members asked Dr. Selk about current data collection and suggested that a presentation on the Massachusetts Virtual Epidemiologic Network (MAVEN) system might be helpful. Discussion followed related to improving data collection and analysis, looking at information from other state agencies, and coordinating recommendations with funding.

Task members expressed interest in having an inventory of work done historically to address general health disparities in the Commonwealth in addition to work related specifically to COVID-19. Interest was expressed in creating a central place where materials can be collected and accessed.

Planning for hearings and interim report

As Co-Chairs, Dr. Sayah and Mr. Curry agreed to develop a timeline for scheduling meetings and public hearings to move the work of the Task Force forward within the next two weeks, if possible.